

From: Mark Hernandez
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 1:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the present settlement terms offered to the Microsoft Corporation as doing nothing to prevent or limit the ability of Microsoft to act as a monopoly, or to prevent or limit the ability of Microsoft to act adversely against those that it deems to be competitors or critics.

The long and well-documented history of Microsoft parallels that of many of the trusts and monopolies that it has been the policy and practice of the United States to prevent or, in the worst of cases, dismantle and separate.

Likewise, this settlement does not provide for the free market economy that it is the policy of the United States to support; by failing to actively limit the monopolistic actions of Microsoft, already determined in a court of law, the Department of Justice is endorsing the concept that 'competition is bad' and that no other software developer or vendor may be able to compete with the burgeoning Microsoft structure. Consumers, as well as commercial enterprises, will be forced not to pay market prices based on competition, but prices set at already arbitrary levels that are likely to go even higher in relation to future sales.

Please do not allow the settlement to be completed as it is currently written, nor with the thrust of its offer standing in any future version of it.

With this settlement, the Microsoft monopoly will continue to stifle competition and stagnate the computer industry by closing any avenue that Microsoft does not approve of, as historical documentation clearly indicates is the Microsoft pattern of preserving itself.

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